

Diabetes Medications

Pills

Pill	Main Potential Side Effects	Notes
Metformin (Glucophage)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gas, diarrhea (usually goes away after 1-2 weeks). • Tell doctors that it may need to be stopped before a dye study or surgery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generic (free at Meijer's) • Makes the body more sensitive to effects of insulin • Better when taken with food
Glimepiride (Amaryl) Glipizide (Glucotrol) Glyburide (Diabeta)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low blood sugar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generic • Stimulates the pancreas to release insulin
Pioglitazone (Actos)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swelling or fluid retention • Worsens congestive heart failure • Low blood sugar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generic • Makes body more sensitive to insulin action
Sitagliptin (Januvia) Saxagliptin (Onglyza) Linagliptin (Tradjenta) Alogliptin (Nesina)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diarrhea • Upset stomach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brand • Stimulates the pancreas to release insulin • Makes the liver produce less sugar
Canagliflozin (Invokana) Dapagliflozin (Farxiga) Empagliflozin (Jardiance) Ertugliflozin (Steglatro)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent urination • Urinary tract or genital fungal infections • Dehydration, Decreased kidney function 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brand • Makes the kidney waste sugar into urine • Decreases sugar, blood pressure, and weight

GLP-1 Agonists (Non-Insulin Shots)

- Brand
- Decrease Appetite, increase insulin after eating, slow stomach movement.
- Come in pens with needles to be injected under the skin
- Main Side Effects: Nausea, diarrhea, low sugar, injection site reaction
- Rarely cause pancreatitis; also linked rarely to pancreatic cancer
- linked to thyroid cancer in rats (no human cases)

Medication	How Often
Byetta	- 2/day
Victoza	- 1/day
Bydureon	- 1/week
Ozempic	- 1/week
Trulicity	- 1 /week

Insulin Shots:

Most people using insulin need both a longer acting insulin and a shorter acting insulin.

A. Longer acting Insulins

- Keep sugar overall down, but cannot prevent sugar from rising after eating
 - Injected under the skin 1-2 times daily (using pen, or using vial and syringe).
1. Tresiba pen
 2. Toujeo pen
 3. Lantus pen or vial
 4. Basaglar pen
 5. Levemir pen or vial
 6. Soliqua 100/33 pen
 7. Xultophy 100/3.6 pen
 8. Humulin N pen or vial (over the counter)
 9. Novolin N vial (over the counter, vial 1000 units \approx \$25 at Walmart)
 10. Humulin R U-500 pen or vial (acts as longer and shorter-acting) (different from Humulin R U-100)

B. Shorter acting Insulins

- Prevent sugar from going high after meals
 - Injected under the skin 1-3 times daily before meals (using pen, or using vial and syringe); OR infused continuously via insulin pump or patch (V-GO).
1. Humalog U-100 pen or vial
 2. Humalog U-200 pen
 3. Novolog U-100 pen or vial
 4. Fiasp U-100 pen or vial
 5. Apidra U-100 pen or vial
 6. Humulin R U-100 vial (over the counter) (different from Humulin R U-500)
 7. Novolin R U-100 vial (over the counter, vial 1000 units \approx \$25 at Walmart)

Check with your insurance to see which of the above medications are covered, and how much will be your copay.

Compared to vials, pens are more convenient; but they are more expensive and less likely to be approved by insurance.

Insulin Main Side Effects:

Weight gain (you may gain the weight you lost when your sugar was not controlled)

Hypoglycemia (low blood sugar), which can result in symptoms of headache, nausea, hunger, confusion, drowsiness, weakness, dizziness, blurred vision, fast heartbeat, sweating, tremor, trouble concentrating, confusion, or seizure (convulsions).